

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE -- 1 NOVEMBER 2000

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. CORPS HEADQUARTERS (HQUSACE) ORGANIZATION

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<u>Asst. Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)</u>	<u>Joseph W. Westphal, Ph.D.</u>
<u>Commander, Chief of Engineers</u>	<u>LTG Robert B. Flowers (HQUSACE)</u>
<u>Deputy Commander for Civil Works</u>	<u>MG Hans Van Winkle (CECW)</u>
<u>Chief, Operations Division</u>	<u>Charles M. Hess (CECW-O)</u>
<u>Chief, Natural Resources Mgmt. (NRM) Br.</u>	<u>Darrell E. Lewis (CECW-ON)</u>

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This paper provides an update on key functions and issues effecting the Corps Natural Resources/Recreation Programs. Information is subject to change between editions of this update paper. E-mail your comments to Stephen B. Austin (HQUSACE - CECW-ON).

Changes to the previous edition of this paper are highlighted in bold text

NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BRANCH

The Natural Resources Management Branch (CECW-ON) has now been transformed into the following three sections:

<u>Recreation Programs Section</u>	(George Tabb, Section Chief)
<u>Natural Resources Management Section</u>	(Denise White, Section Chief)
<u>Environmental Compliance Section</u>	(Janice Smith, Section Chief)

Under this arrangement, a new section (Environmental Compliance) has been established and the former Land Management Section has been combined into the Recreation Programs Section.

“It is true in life that things come full circle. The environmental compliance program began in the Natural Resources Management Branch before moving to the Environmental Compliance Branch in 1991. The compliance status of USACE projects and facilities has advanced considerably since the environmental compliance program was established. The network of Environmental Compliance Coordinators (see Attachments N, O and P) has proved to be an effective and positive influence within USACE. It is with pleasure that I welcome back the Environmental Compliance Section and its Chief, Janice Smith”
(Darrell Lewis).

The **next edition** of this NRM Program Update Paper will fully reflect this new structure within the Natural Resources Management Branch.

B. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM) AWARD WINNERS

2000 Projects of the Year – **Arkabutla Lake**, Vicksburg District, Mississippi Valley Division
and **Buffumville Lake**, New England District, North Atlantic Division

2000 NRM Employee of the Year – **Mr. Tim Feavel**, Park Ranger, Chena River Lakes Project,
Alaska District, Pacific Ocean Division

2000 Interpreter of the Year – **Ms. Pamela Doty**, Park Ranger, Lake Shelbyville, St. Louis District,
Mississippi Valley Division (Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence).

1999 American Recreation Coalition’s Recreation Legion Award – **Mr. Darrell Lewis**, Chief, Natural
Resources Management Branch, HQUSACE

1999 National Society of Park Resources’ William Pen Mott, Jr. Award of Excellence – **Mr. David Wahus**,
Natural Resources Management Branch, HQUSACE

Congratulations to our award winners! Remember, all Corps NRM team members are eligible for the NRM Employee of the Year Award and all Corps-administered projects which are operated and maintained by the Natural Resources Management element are eligible for the Chief of Engineer's Project of the Year Award. The winners of these two awards are also eligible for consideration of similar Department of the Army natural resource awards. The general authority for these awards is provided in ER 672-1-18. A detailed memorandum from Headquarters, Natural Resources Management Branch (CECW-O) to each Major Subordinate Command (MSC - Division Office) is forwarded by early January of each year, containing the award nomination criteria, procedures and point of contact. The Chief of Engineers, or his delegate presents award plaques. The awards are presented at the annual Senior Leadership Conference.

C. TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS IN HEADQUARTERS

Note: There are no temporary assignments currently in CECW-ON (either the Career Assignment Program, a five-month tour-of-duty appointment, or other shorter-term assignments). We have no indication as to when temporary assignments will resume in CECW-ON.

D. CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A Natural Resources Management Career Development Committee was formed in 1989 to explore and chart courses of action on a number of training and employment issues within the Natural Resources program. Attachment B is a current listing of committee members and your division representative. In 1994, the committee published the *Career Development Guide for Civil Works Natural Resources Management Team Members*" (EP 690-2-2). This guide identifies training opportunities and career ladders and should help all NRM employees explore and plan their career goals. This document is scheduled to be updated in FY 01.

The committee's current focus is the development of a delivery system designed to provide up to date training and career opportunities to the NRM team. The delivery system will make maximum use of the World Wide Web and electronic mail. Additionally, the committee is currently "fleshing out" an outline for the comprehensive training system that may be used for the basis of revolutionary methods of training. The system would be national in scope to insure consistency, outcome based and, to the degree possible and practical, exportable.

The committee has developed an interactive, self-directed, computer based training course (*Safe Self*) that covers the necessary tactical communication skills to partially meet the new Visitor Assistance Program training requirements contained in EC 1130-2-213, *Visitor Assistance Training*. This training tool is also available to non-citation authority employees (project secretaries, maintenance employees, real estate and regulatory personnel, etc.) and project service contract employees. The CDs were distributed to all NRM offices in early October.

E. FEDERAL LAKES RECREATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

In response to one of the recommendations of the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission*, the Federal Lakes Recreation Leadership Council was established on 28 October 1999. The Council membership consists of the agency/bureau heads of the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Tennessee Valley Authority. **MG Van Winkle** and Eluid Martinez, Bureau of Reclamation, serve as Co-Chairs of the Council.

The purpose of the Council is to coordinate the implementations of the Commission recommendations and provide interagency coordination in the development of policies that provide an environment for success in Federal lake recreation management. A three-year plan action plan for implementing the NRLS Commission recommendations has been developed.

The Corps has solicited nominations from the MSCs for lakes to be considered by the council under its demonstration laboratory.

*** National Recreation Lakes Study Commission reviewed current and anticipated demand for recreational opportunities at federally-managed manmade lakes and published their report of recommendations ("Reservoirs of Opportunities") in 1999 (www.doi.gov/nrls/).**

F. NRM / RECREATION RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and specifically the Environmental Laboratory at the Waterways Experiment Station is no longer printing copies of the reports of their efforts. Instead they are posted on their publications web site. To read the latest version of RECNOTES (Nov 99), and all the RECNOTES ever published, go to <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/elpubs/recnotes.html> All Environmental Laboratory publications can be accessed at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/t2info.html>

II. RECREATION PROGRAMS SECTION

Note: Dave Wahus, Chief, Recreation Programs Section, retired on 3 June 2000. As a result, several significant changes, staffing, and program responsibilities within the Natural Resources Management Branch are being considered. More information on these changes will be provided as decisions are made.

A. RECREATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Corps of Engineers is the second largest Federal provider of outdoor recreation, second only to the Forest Service. Approximately 21% of federally hosted outdoor recreation occurs at Corps projects (on less than 2% of the Federal lands). The Corps hosted 360 million visitors in 1999. We have 4,340 recreation areas on 456 lakes and waterways reporting recreation use. 57% of the recreation areas are operated by the Corps and 43% are leased out to others for operation and maintenance.

In 1994, over \$12 billion was spent by visitors engaged in recreation at Corps projects, resulting in \$5 billion in employee income and over 187,000 jobs in industries directly supplying goods and services to Corps visitors. Direct economic output associated with Corps visitor spending represents 0.1 per cent of the \$4.2 trillion U.S. economy, and 0.13 per cent of all jobs in the United States. Secondary effects of the Corps visitor spending accounted for an additional \$15 billion in employee income and 410,000 jobs. The total effect of visitor spending in 1994 accounted for 0.4 per cent of employee income and 0.5 per cent of jobs in the United States.

B. RECREATION AREA MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (RAMP)

The President's FY 01 Budget included \$27,000,000 for the Construction, General, account to support the modernization of Corps of Engineers managed recreation areas. This is the first year of five-year \$330,000,000 program to modernize about 225 Corps managed recreation areas. The \$27,000,000 will modernize seventeen Corps managed recreation areas. **Unfortunately, the RAMP was considered a new start and was not funded by Congress. The Corps will pursue this effort in upcoming years.**

The purpose of the Recreation Modernization Program is to meet the needs of today's recreation users at Corps managed recreation areas, by improving facility functionality and protecting the natural resources that draw people to our areas. This will include meeting the needs of the various ethnic groups that make up today's diverse population. Modernization with state of the art materials and designs can reduce the cost of future maintenance, as well as eliminate much of the costly maintenance backlog. Modernization would also enhance visitor willingness to pay user fees to improve the self-sustaining posture of the Corps recreation program.

The Army Corps of Engineers hosts 208 million visitors annually at Corps operated recreation areas and is the Nation's leading provider of water-based recreation. Visitation to Corps recreation sites is expected to continue to grow in the future. Visitors are attracted to the water and natural resources surrounding the lakes.

Most of the facilities at Corps projects were constructed in 1960's and 70's and were designed to serve the needs of the recreating public at that time. Visitor needs have changed significantly from that period. For example, tents and tent trailers have evolved to large travel trailers or motor homes, making many of the Corps facilities obsolete.

Funding for the maintenance of recreation facilities has been limited in the past decade. The result is that visitors to Corps lakes are faced with dilapidated recreation facilities and inadequate levels of service that do not meet Corps customer service standards. The combination of heavy use, scaled back maintenance, and changes in visitor needs have caused significant deterioration in customer service and the natural resource base that draws visitors to the lakes.

This situation impairs the ability of managers to protect the resource and provide the level of service being sought by the recreating American public. Corps recreation facilities need to be modernized to provide our customers with safe facilities that meet their needs and the level of service they expect.

C. RECREATION FACILITIES STANDARDS TASK FORCE

The modernization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed recreation areas has been identified as a priority by the Chief of Engineers. To ensure Corps wide consistency, standards are needed for recreation facilities and levels of service.

A task force (see Appendix J), chaired by Mike Miller, Chief of Operations, Little Rock District, has been charged with assisting the Natural Resources Management Branch in the development of such standards. **The objective of the group is to develop design standards that can be used at the field level.**

D. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 1999 over 70,000 volunteers contributed over 1.2 million hours of work with an estimated value of \$13.5 million. During the last several years, the Corps has taken the following initiatives in expanding the use of volunteers and supplemental labor sources:

- The Volunteer Regulation (ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 10) was revised to allow more program flexibility. Revised regulation allows volunteers to operate vehicles and vessels and to collect fees or handle government funds.
- The Volunteer Coordinator's Handbook (EP 1130-2-429) was published on 30 April 1993 to assist volunteer program coordinators in establishing and operating successful volunteer programs. The manual provides guidance on developing a comprehensive volunteer management plan.
- A national volunteer brochure ("Volunteer For America's Environment"; EP 1130-2-433) was distributed in 1994 to help promote volunteerism throughout the Corps.
- The Corps Volunteer Clearinghouse opened in Nashville on 3 January 1994 and serves as a national point of contact for individuals and groups interested in volunteering at Corps projects and offices. The Clearinghouse has a toll-free telephone "hot-line" (1-800-VOL-TEER or 1-800-865-8337) and address. Callers receive Corps volunteer information to assist them in making a decision on where to volunteer. The Clearinghouse also has a web page www.orn.usace.mil/volunteer. Projects can advertise specific volunteer job opportunities on the page and interested volunteers can apply on-line for information. The Clearinghouse is designed to supplement, not replace the outstanding work that our field offices have accomplished in encouraging volunteerism at our projects. Almost 300 projects are listed as volunteer sources in the Clearinghouse - is yours? Check with your district office to be included or contact the Volunteer Clearinghouse.

E. NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

The Corps is a major player in *National Public Lands Day* (NPLD) - a one-day nationwide celebration of volunteer service on public lands. **This year, NPLD occurred at 277 sites on Saturday, 23 September 2000. The Corps had 40 participating projects and attracted over 30% of all the volunteers to the NPLD sites.**

F. PARK RANGER/MANAGER UNIFORM PROGRAM

A new multiagency uniform contract was awarded to UniformSolutions on 30 June 2000. This performance-based contract includes a number of new features including: emphasis on new product development, uses of technology to provide for uniform accountability, websites, an on-line ordering system and incentives for superior performances and deductions for nonperformance tied to quarterly surveillance of performance outcomes.

Under this contract, two websites have been established - the government web site (for uniform allowance authorizations) and the contractor website (for uniform ordering). Account Numbers and Passwords have been distributed to all employees currently authorized to wear the NRM uniform. User Ids and Passwords have also been sent to all NRM employees authorized to complete and certify Uniform Allowance Authorization forms. Detailed guidance has been provided thru the District Uniform Coordinators to the projects via two e-mail messages (20 October and 3 November, subject: Uniform Program for FY 2001.)

Each district has a NRM Uniform Program Coordinator to assist uniform wearers with day-to-day uniform concerns/problems. Know your representative -- he/she is your advocate on matters concerning the uniform program. Your ideas and suggestions for program improvement should be directed to your district coordinator who, in turn, will forward all appropriate suggestions to the NRM Uniform Committee for consideration. Each division has a representative on the Uniform Committee (see Attachment C for membership list). The committee is responsible for addressing employee concerns that impact the program on a national basis and for forwarding appropriate comments to HQUSACE for consideration and possible adoption.

The committee has been responsible for many recent program enhancements including the following new (or improved) items: black pullover sweater, ball caps, tie tack, maternity items, vest w/collar, rain pant, shorts, cotton-blended work shirts, softer fabric for the duty shirt and a new fit pattern for the female dress trousers. **The committee has also proposed a number of changes to the Uniform Program Regulation (ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 8). A full field review of the proposed changes will occur place this fall.** Contact your District Uniform Coordinator or Uniform Committee representative for more details.

The Deputy Commander for Civil Works eliminated the NRM Class A (Park Manager) uniform (effective for 30 September 2000). Specific details are included in the 7 April 2000 memorandum from the Deputy Commander. The Class A uniform may no longer be worn by anyone. The Class B (Park Ranger) uniform may be worn by Park/Resource Managers, NRM district office employees (on a intermittent basis) and certain project administrative employees (as determined by the District Commander) in accordance with the policy stipulated in the 7 April memorandum. This action does not affect Corps Park Rangers who are currently authorized to wear the Class B uniform.

G. VISITOR ASSISTANCE

Visitor Assistance Program Review. In 1995, the Natural Resources Management Branch initiated comprehensive review of the Visitor Assistance (VA) Program with specific emphasis on ranger and visitor safety. The review is supported by Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and Chief of Engineers offices.

A number of methods were used to identify and evaluate the current program including, a Corps-Wide Ranger/Manager Conference, a VA Program survey to all NRM employees, an independent review of five districts by the Corps Audit Office, and a review of other agency programs. A seven-member review committee, consisting primarily of rangers and managers coordinated this effort and, in September 1995, submitted a report of formal recommendations for HQ consideration/approval. The committee's report was submitted to HQ on 12 September

1995.

The report discussed various alternatives regarding level of authority and identified 54 recommendations in the major areas of training, equipment, park design/operations, and reporting. Many of the recommendations are within current Corps authority and policy (and are considered operational program improvements) which do not require a major shift in overall direction of the VA program. A copy of the report has been distributed to all divisions and districts.

ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 6, includes revised guidance covering about half of the report's 54 recommendations. The remaining recommendations required additional study by several task forces which were chartered by CECW-ON to address the issues of body armor, chemical aerosol spray, vehicles, training, Title 36 and reporting requirements.

VA Training. Numerous changes to the Visitor Assistance training program are included in Engineer Circular 1130-2-213, which was published on 1 October 1999. The EC requires new minimum standards for acquiring and maintaining citation authority. All Park Rangers are responsible for knowing and (through Corps management) meeting the new requirements of the Visitor Assistance training program contained in this EC.

Pepper Spray. A one-year test of Pepper Spray was conducted at the Belton-Stillhouse project in Texas. As a result of this test, HQUSACE is considering Southwestern Division's recommendation to grant Corps park rangers the authority to carry and use pepper spray for self defensive purposes. The Deputy Commander for Civil Works has the test results and SWD/CECW-O's recommendations and will be making a decision in the near future.

VA Vehicles. The revised policy on vehicle colors, markings and equipment was issued as EC 1130-2-212 on 23 April 1999. The EC can be found at www.army.usace.mil/inet/functions/cw/rtnusace.htm.

Title 36. 36 CFR, Part 327 (Title 36) has been revised with a 5 May 2000 effective date (Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 88, page 26137). The initial first year supply of Title 36 brochures was distributed to all districts during the first week in June.

Originating Agency Identifier Numbers (ORI). CECW-ON is continuing to work with Tulsa District to gain Corps-access (on a state-by-state basis) into the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. We currently have access (have obtained ORI numbers) for Oklahoma (36 projects) and Kansas (17 projects). Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Pennsylvania are next. ORI numbers make it legal for rangers to call local law enforcement agencies for information on visitors/vehicles. We plan to obtain ORI numbers for all 42 states over the next three years. Further information on this process is included in an April 2000 memorandum from Charlie Hess. In this memo, each district was requested to provide a state-POC for this initiative.

H. WATER SAFETY

A field level Water Safety Committee (see Attachment D) was formed in 1994 to assist CECW-ON in administering a centralized Corps-wide water safety program. The committee is developing water safety products to support Corps projects with their outstanding local water safety programs. The current Water Safety catalog has been distributed. Ideas, comments, suggestions are always welcomed. Contact your division committee representative!

Corps offices can now place water safety product orders through the committee's new web site at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil> Products are available free-of-charge to offices on a first come, first serve

basis. Please coordinate this action within your office to avoid placing duplicate orders.

I. VISITOR ESTIMATION REPORTING SYSTEM (VERS)

The VERS is a family of microcomputer-based programs designed to estimate and report recreation use on Corps projects. The estimates are based on surveys conducted at recreation areas where vehicle traffic is monitored by traffic counting devices. The system is comprised of the Direct Data Entry System (DDes), an entry and editing feature which allows entry of previously collected survey data to the program, the Load Factor Analysis component, and the Reporting component.

VERS is the Corps approved protocol for measuring visitor use at water resource development projects providing outdoor recreation opportunities. All projects are required to report their visitation to the NRMS (soon to be OMBIL) during the annual update using the VERS system. This is a mandatory requirement - to date approximately 90% of the projects are using VERS and 42% of the projects have not conducted visitor surveys. Everyone must use VERS to measure visitor use to improve the accuracy and credibility of our data.

The VERS reporting module is currently being modified to operate in a Windows environment. This version will also permit direct uploading of VERS monthly data into OMBIL. We now expect this version will be released late this fall.

J. NATIONAL RECREATION RESERVATION SERVICE (NRRS)

The NRRS is an interagency initiative designed to provide easy, state-of-the-art reservation services for Federal recreation sites and facilities across the country through a toll free telephone number, an Internet Website, and at local recreation sites. The toll free number became operational in October 1998; the Internet site went live in May 1999; and the local reservation program will be operating at many Corps parks this summer. The Forest Service and the Corps of Engineers are cooperating in the NRRS, using the contracted services of Reserve America, Inc. of Balston Spa, New York. Additional agencies are expected to join in the NRRS in the future. The NRRS replaces the Automated User Permit System (AUPS) in participating parks. AUPS will continue to be used in parks not participating in the NRRS.

See Attachment I for NRRS Team Members. Visit the NRRS Team Home Website at <http://team-nrrs.usace.army.mil> for current information about the NRRS, to include news releases, NRRS News, ad slicks for local marketing, policy letters, and much more. The NRRS Operating Procedures Manual is also located at this website, which is a valuable information resource.

K. AUTOMATED USER PERMITS SYSTEM (AUPS)

The AUPS has been an effective management tool in the administration and management of the user fee program. Using data collected from AUPS, characterizations may be made regarding visitor origins, length of stay, occupancy rates in campgrounds and at individual campsites, fees paid per campsite, average group size and Golden Age/Golden Access Passport use. This data can be used to evaluate future recreation area designs and rehabilitation projects, assess the most efficient allocation of project resources in campground management, and compare key variables across projects and recreation areas.

The NRRS will replace AUPS in campgrounds which use the service. When NRRS is fully implemented, all Class A campgrounds and a number of Class B and C campgrounds will use the service. At that time, AUPS will be used in campgrounds not using the NRRS as appropriate.

AUPS is currently undergoing a thorough review to assure its continued functionality in the Y2K environment. Any necessary modifications will be made and an updated version released to the field by this summer.

L. RECREATION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (RMSP)

The RMSP is the next generation version of the old Recreation Research Program (RRP). It is designed to provide comprehensive support to the recreation business function and includes activities previously conducted under the RRP, short term studies, technology transfer and technical support. The spring meeting of the RMSP was held in April 2000 in Washington, D.C. Discussions included a review of the FY2000 program and proposals for the FY 2001 program. The fall RMSP meeting will be held on 1-3 November in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The membership in the Recreational Leadership Advisory Team is shown in Attachment F.

M. USER FEES

A total of \$28.8 million in user fees were deposited in the Corps account in the Treasury in FY 00. Additional FY 00 collections were not disbursed from the NRRS holding account into the Corps Treasury account last year, but will be deposited in FY 01.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 gave the Corps authority to retain recreation use fee collections in excess of 34 million for users in support of the recreation program. **This authority is good for a 4-year period, from 1999 through 2002. In 1999 and 2000, we did not reach the \$34 million threshold. Implementing guidance has been developed, and will be implemented if we exceed the threshold in FY 01 or FY 02.**

A task force has been convened to conduct a comprehensive review of the recreation use fee policy as contained in ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 9. **The task force solicited and reviewed field input this summer, as a first step in the effort. They are continuing work and expect to deliver recommendations to CECW-ON by the end of the year. See Appendix K for task force members. Please feel free to provide any comments to any of the task force members.**

N. SECTION 208a TASK FORCE

Section 208a of Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96) directed the Secretary of the Army to provide increased emphasis on, and opportunities for recreation at, water resources projects operated, maintained, or constructed by the Corps of Engineers and to transmit a report to Congress on specific measures taken. This field Task Force was charged with developing a strategy for identifying and implementing actions that places the Corps of Engineers in conformance with this Act. The Task Force report is complete and has been sent to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for approval prior to submission to OMB and Congress. **The ASA(CW) has asked that the Modernization initiative be included in the report before it**

goes to Congress.

O. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS

Recreation area "Customer Satisfaction Surveys" have been conducted at many projects since FY 96 using comments cards. Projects can analyze their own results using a data analysis program provided by Waterways Experiment Station (WES). This immediate feedback will be the first step in measuring the success of our program based on customer satisfaction. The goal is to receive feedback from our customers so that we may work to improve customer satisfaction and to receive input that will assist us in making the best use of our resources. Projects should have received an electronic version of the comment card for local reproduction and use in 2000. The field will be required to enter customer satisfaction data into OMBIL when that system is deployed.

P. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NRMS)

The NRMS is a data collection and reporting system which has been in place since the late 1970s. Although the NRMS will be replaced by OMBIL (see paragraph N below), one last update was done for the 1999 report year. **Use fee information for FY 99 will be distributed to the field shortly. HQs may issue a data call for basic visitation and revenue information for FY00 before the end of the year, to see us through until OMBIL is populated.**

Q. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS INFORMATION LINK (OMBIL) - RECREATION COMPONENT

OMBIL is an executive information system, residing on CEAP, and containing data regarding the Corps O&M business programs. It replaces the Natural Resources Management System (NRMS), as well as other data collection and maintenance systems currently in use. The information will be centrally available at all Corps levels, with the goal being to enter corporate data only once into a reporting and data collecting system. You may learn more about OMBIL by visiting the OMBIL Website at <http://ombil.usace.army.mil>. **The Recreation component of OMBIL will be deployed nationwide in FY 01.**

The input screens are substantially complete, and some data from the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) has been pre-loaded into OMBIL/Recreation. We also intend to pre-load static data from the Natural Resources Management System (NRMS) into OMBIL prior to deployment. This should reduce the initial data entry burden significantly; however, when the system is deployed, the field should carefully review pre-loaded data to assure it is correct.

An upgrade of the Visitation Estimation and Reporting System (VERS) currently underway will permit automatic upload of monthly visitation information into OMBIL. This will reduce periodic data entry.

District and Division POCs have been designated for the recreation component of OMBIL. A User's Group (see Attachment L), consisting of division, district and project representatives, has been established to

provide support and assistance to the program. **An initial training session is planned for the User's Group the week of 13 November at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Following this, 3 train-the-trainer sessions will be conducted in the January/February 2001 time frame for the district and division POCs. We plan to conduct these sessions at Baltimore, Portland, and Little Rock districts, although final scheduling is not complete.** Note: The Natural Resources component of OMBIL is discussed in Section III (Natural Resources Management Section), paragraph G.

R. CHALLENGE PARTNERSHIPS

Section 225 of WRDA 92 authorized the Secretary of the Army to enter into cooperative agreements with non-Federal public and private entities to provide for operation and/or management and development of recreation facilities and natural resources at water resource development projects where such facilities are being maintained at full Federal expense.

The program is intended to provide increased leveraging of available appropriated funds for recreation and natural resources management. The Corps may accept contributions of funds, materials and services in conjunction with this program. ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12, provides guidance for implementing this program.

There appears to be considerable confusion in the field about how this program may be implemented. Much of the confusion has centered on the name of the program, challenge "cost-sharing". Many people who have worked with the Corps Recreation Cost Sharing program in the past are confused by the requirements of that program and the requirements of the Challenge Cost Sharing program. We intend to change the name of the Challenge Cost Sharing Program to Challenge Partnership Program. This change will be accomplished through a change to ER 1130-2-500.

While Corps regulations authorize the use of the Challenge Partnership Program, specifics on how the program should be implemented have not been included in Corps guidance. We plan to establish a task force shortly to review the program and recommend changes. The mission of this task force is to develop procedures and provide examples of how this program can be executed effectively at the field level. We have also clarified guidance contained in Corps Budget EC which should legitimize and increase field participation in the program.

S. ACCESSIBILITY

The Natural Resources Management Branch in Headquarters has been developing policy and guidance for a Universal Accessibility Program, including an inventory of all Corps facilities and the degree to which facilities must be modified to meet the desired goal. Funding for the modification of recreation facilities to meet accessibility goals has been and will continue to be programmed through the normal O&M budget process. The Universal Accessibility Task Force has delivered their report with recommended policy and guidance for the program.

The Regulatory Negotiations Committee on Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Areas reached consensus and made recommendations to the Access Board on accessibility guidelines for newly constructed and altered recreational facilities and developed outdoor areas covered by Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act. The Access Board accepted the committee's recommendations and will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the near future. You may visit the Access Board's website at www.access-board.gov for additional information. Due to competing work priorities, CECW-ON will not address the accessibility program in FY 2000.

T. USE OF NON-FEDERAL PRISON LABOR

EC 2230-2-211, Community Work Programs, was published on 15 Apr 99. This circular establishes the policy on the use of community work programs to perform work at civil works water resource projects. Specifically, it provides for the use of state and local inmate labor by civil works projects where the Army has the authority to accept voluntary contributions in the form of services from state and local governments. The EC can be found at www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/rtnusace.htm

III. LAND MANAGEMENT SECTION

A. INTERPRETIVE SERVICES AND OUTREACH PROGRAM (ISOP)

The ISOP is a management tool to be used by everyone. It is one of the best public relations items we have at our disposal. The success of the interpretive program is due to all of the individuals who believe in the importance of the interpretive services program in achieving our management goals. To be truly successful, we must solicit middle management's understanding and endorsement. Interpretation is not fluff that can be easily cut out of our budgets, but rather, it is an essential part of our mission.

The Great Outdoors Fun Book was developed in support of ISOP and continues to be very popular. Vicksburg District is continuing to handle printing efforts, and consolidates all orders for periodic printing of the Fun Book. Since taking on the task of coordinating printing efforts, the Vicksburg District has done an exceptional job of assuring the ordering process is completed smoothly for the many districts who wish to purchase copies. Julie Marcy is the point of contact for ordering copies of the Fun Book. To find out when the next consolidated printing will occur, and/or to place an order, please call Julie Marcy, the point of contact for ordering copies of the Fun Book, at 601-631-5302; FAX is 601-631-7133.

B. VISITOR CENTER INITIATIVE

The Deputy Commander (MG Fuhrman) has approved the Visitor Center Initiative which will significantly modify our centers to improve the delivery of the Corps message through modern interactive exhibits.

The strategy paper for this action included the following wording: *"The Corps Vision Statement includes "revolutionizing effectiveness" as a goal. Specifically the goal statement is: "dramatic improvement in performance and customer satisfaction will be achieved through best business practices, bold process reengineering and innovative use of technology". We proposed to apply that goal to the entire Corps system of visitor centers. First we will develop and obtain approval of a clear lay version of the Corps Vision and incorporate it into a public message. Sixty type A and B visitor centers and some of the 242 type C centers will be significantly modified to improve the delivery of the Corps message with modern interactive exhibits. (There are 7 type A regional centers, 53 type B project centers, and 242 type C centers ranging from brochure racks to centers with full exhibits.) At selected key visitor centers, we will place a "Command Brief" exhibit that describes the Corps contribution to the Nation. Regional and local project exhibits will be developed locally and replace current outdated exhibits. We will not just install new exhibits, but provide attractive exhibits that will provide "hands on" interactive learning experiences that are both entertaining and educational."*

To accomplish the specific tasks, we will establish a multidiscipline field team with expertise in Public Affairs, Information Management, Budget and Finance, and Interpretation. Field team members will be selected for their creativity and on the ground successes in related activities. The team will be led by a project manager and will use qualified contractors as needed. The effort will be launched with a Chief of Engineers memorandum that will explain the initiative and provide overall direction and guidance. This guidance will be incorporated into the appropriate ER/EPs. The "Command Brief" will be developed by PAO and will be centrally funded. Budget guidance will provide a process for local funding of regional and local project exhibits.

A steering committee of HQUSACE staff from PAO, IM, CECW-ON, and CECW-B will provide oversight. This steering committee will be chaired by the representative from CECW-ON and will report, through the chain of command, to the Deputy Chief.

HQUSACE is in the process of soliciting for field team members and a program manager to initiate the effort.

C. SIGN STANDARDS PROGRAM.

St. Paul District is the Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Corps Sign Standards Program. The Director of the Sign Program MCX and National Sign Program Manager is Henrik Strandskov. Headquarters has retained policy responsibility for the program. The MCX works closely with the Sign Advisory Work Group, as stated in the Sign Standards MCX charter, a copy of which was distributed previously to all divisions and districts. The MCX is in the process of consolidating with the Waterway Signs MCX, also located in St. Paul. The combined MCX would provide expertise in engineering waterway sign construction and installation, as well as providing overall coordination for the Sign Standards Program.

The MCX and work group are currently working to update the Sign Standards Manual, EP 310-6a and 6b. At the same time, the *Sign Manager* software program is being updated to reflect the changes and will be in a Windows format. We estimate this effort will take at least nine months. See Attachment E --National Sign Advisory Work Group. The National Sign Program MCX now has it's own web page. The page is included on St. Paul District's website. So far the page only has a couple of features - a list of all the sign program managers and the most recent list of approved non-standard safety sign legends. There are also links to the MCX charter, Chapter 6 of ER 1130-2-500, the sign program's implementing regulation and EC 1110-2-288, "*Standard Designs for Waterway Signs.*" These are important resources for this program and should be a part of every sign program managers' references. An important goal for the future is to make the entire Sign Standards Manual available on the Internet through the HQUSACE Publication Library.

D. SOUTH DAKOTA LAND TRANSFER

The President signed Public Law (PL) 105-277 on 21 October 1998. Title VI of Division C of the PL is entitled Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, and State of South Dakota Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat Restoration, and it requires, among other things, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to transfer significant acreage to the State of South Dakota and to specific Tribes mentioned in the legislation. The legislation also establishes trust funds to cover the costs for the management of the transferred

lands. The management funding can only be released after full capitalization of the trust funds by the Treasury Department, which is expected to take 8 to 9 years.

The State of South Dakota would very much like to obtain the lands in question prior to the capitalization of the trust funds. They have proposed a two-part effort. The first part involves a volunteer effort for the remainder of FY 00 that would allow them to have access to certain Corps operated areas in an effort to improve on the ground conditions there. The second part of their proposal involves leasing several recreation areas to them for a period of four years.

The Omaha District, Northwestern Division, HQUSACE, ASA(CW), and Army General Counsel accepted this proposal.

The Corps is also considering an administrative transfer of lands within the exterior boundaries of reservations to the Tribes from which the lands were obtained. This review effort is being lead by the Corps Real Estate Directorate and no time frame for completion of their work has been established.

E. COOPERATING ASSOCIATIONS

Cooperating Associations are an opportunity for projects to form partnerships with communities and obtain goods and services. Associations can collect dues, sell educational publications and post cards on site, conduct programs and purchase food to reward volunteers.

If an association uses part of a building on a permanent basis, real estate must get involved in the drafting of the agreement and lease. Real Estate does not require a lease if the association holds primary activities off the government facility or they use a roll away cart. Cooperating associations are a good way to leverage our limited resources and we should use them where it makes sense. Currently the Corps has 21 Cooperating Associations in place. Headquarters is currently working with the Association of Partners for Public Lands (the umbrella organization for cooperating associations) to develop a relationship with them which will benefit all of our cooperating associations.

The Corps has established a new award intended to recognize outstanding contributions to interpretive and/or environmental education efforts of the Corps by a cooperating association. The award is called the Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships Award. Nominations have been solicited from the field. This award will become a regular part of the APPL biennial convention, thus, divisions, districts, and projects should be constantly on the lookout for outstanding examples to nominate every two years.

F. LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

The route followed by the Lewis and Clark Expedition lies within eight Corps districts. Of the more than 5,000 miles of trail from Pittsburgh to the Pacific Ocean, the Corps directly or indirectly manages nearly 4,700 river miles, over 3,700 miles of which lie in the Corps Northwestern Division (Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington). Because the Corps manages more of the trail than any other governmental entity, the Corps will play an important role during the bicentennial commemoration.

On October 1, 1998, the Corps was one of 14 Federal agencies to sign an MOU to collaborate in commemorating the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The purpose of the MOU was to establish a general framework for cooperation among the various agencies and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council. The cooperating agencies

agree to help one another carry out activities related to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration, unify and coordinate planning efforts to ensure consistency and avoid duplication, and to assist other entities in doing the same. Work groups have been established at the field and Washington levels.

As a result of the interagency agreement and the Corps management responsibilities for such an extensive portion of the Lewis and Clark Expedition route, the Corps has chosen to establish a National Coordinator. Jean M. Nauss of the Northwestern Division has been designated as the Corps National Coordinator. In addition, several district POCs have also been established.

The Corps must accommodate the anticipated increased visitation with safety and minimal impact on the environment while providing information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the role of the U.S. Army during the historic era of westward expansion. With the Corps ever-shrinking Operation and Maintenance budget, this will be extremely difficult. The President's FY2001 Budget includes \$1,579,000 for the O&M account in support of the upcoming bicentennial. The 2001 budget also contains an unfunded capability of \$1,370,000 for additional activities to prepare for the commemoration. The Congress must now decide the degree of the Corps involvement in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration.

IV. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SECTION

A. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM) ACTION PLAN

The Natural Resources Management (NRM) Initiative Task Force was organized in 1992 to assist CECW-ON (Natural Resources Section) in the development of actions and appropriate guidance to help clarify the NRM Program mission and objectives. CECW-ON (Denise White and Darrell Lewis) were assisted by the task force membership (see Attachment G) in developing an action plan of high priority actions to clarify and further natural resources stewardship concepts on Corps project lands and water. This work effort was termed NRM Initiative. The task force initially developed a NRM Action Plan, which included approximately eight major actions, which should be addressed by CECW-ON. By December, 1995 much progress had been made in undertaking those actions, particularly development/ approval of the NRM Mission Statement, update of sections of ER 1130-2-400 (see new ER/ EP 1130-2-540) to include the clarified stewardship responsibilities, the need for natural resources inventories, policy on protected species occurring on project lands, needs for Master Plans and OMPs, etc., and revision of budget EC feature cost codes to reflect natural resources focus priorities.

Ongoing efforts of the task force include the review and validation of the updated NRM action plan, participation in the larger team efforts such as Civil Works Environment (Natural Resources) performance measures development/refinement, and OMBIL (Operations and Maintenance Information Link) system modeling for natural resources.

B. RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ACTION PLAN

On 7 June 1995, the President signed Executive Order 12962 addressing recreational fisheries. The Executive Order recognizes the social, cultural, and economic importance of recreational fisheries. Federal agencies have been directed to restore and enhance aquatic systems and improve recreational fishing access to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide to the extent permitted by law and where practical.

The Executive Order also established a National Recreational Fisheries Council responsible for developing a comprehensive Recreational Fisheries Resource Conservation Plan. The Conservation Plan establishes a five-year agenda for Federal agencies identified by the Council (the Corps is one of 24 agencies identified).

Each of the 24 Agencies was required to develop a specific plan to implement the Council Conservation Plan. The Corps plan mirrors the goals (implementation strategies) and desired results (outputs) of the Council Conservation Plan and also contains actions and field guidance to achieve the desired outputs. Those actions detail the steps the Corps will take to conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems and improve the sustainable productivity of recreational fisheries to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities.

The Corps is required to develop an annual report, due in March each year, for submittal to the Council concerning the status and accomplishments of those actions. The Corps plan contains guidance on reporting the number and types of actions taken to achieve the desired outputs in support of the reporting requirement. The annual reporting requirement provides the Corps with an opportunity to showcase its actions to support recreational fishing and improvements to aquatic habitat. The Corps provides approximately 33 percent of all recreational fishing within the United States on lakes over 10 acres.

C. ERGO (ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW GUIDE FOR OPERATIONS)

ERGO, the Environmental Review Guide for Operations, is an environmental compliance review checklist. It is a self-assessment tool designed to determine strengths and weaknesses in complying with environmental laws and regulations. ERGO was initially implemented at Corps Civil Works, O&M General funded operating projects in FY 92 - FY 94.

Dedicated funding of nearly \$9,000,000, through FY 94 was provided by Headquarters to support implementation workshops and the completion of initial (Cycle I) ERGO assessments and corrective action plans, at operating projects. We successfully met our goals of completing initial assessments and actions plans during each fiscal year from FY 92- FY 94.

In September 1994, HQ directed the implementation of Cycle II ERGO external assessments and associated corrective action plans for O&M funded facilities. Cycle II was initiated in FY 95 and is to be completed by the end of FY 99. The HQ established goal for this period is to conduct external assessments and develop corrective action plans at 20 percent of all O&M funded facilities each year. The objective of Cycle II assessments are to maintain the achieved level of compliance, to assure that corrective actions taken have rectified problems and to determine if the Cycle I assessments were thorough.

D. NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN (NAWMP)

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) is a U.S./Canada/Mexico strategy to restore declining waterfowl populations. The Corps joined Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in a cooperative agreement to review Corps projects to identify opportunities to help attain plan goals, and to exchange information with FWS.

A national database was created to track progress in meeting agreement provisions and provides a Corps-wide inventory of existing and potential wetlands habitat development or improvement sites. The results of the project review have been summarized in a Final Report, which was distributed to the field and FWS for their information and use. The report indicates that the Corps is responsible for over 3.5 million acres of habitat, which meets the NAWMP criteria of significant waterfowl use. Of those, more than 1.4 million acres are located within the five NAWMP, High Priority Areas of Major Concern. The Corps, at the end of 1992, was responsible for 8.8% of acreage (1.7 million acres) within NAWMP designated Joint Venture Areas.

Corps participation in NAWMP Joint Venture Implementation Plans is encouraged where appropriate and within Corps authority, to further the goals of the NAWMP. The Challenge Cost Share/Donations authority, and the Section 1135 (Ecosystem Restoration) authority should be pursued to expand opportunities.

E. PROJECT MODIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT (Sections 1135 and 206 Programs):

Program 1 - SECTION 1135 PROGRAM

Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 initiated a demonstration program of modifications in the structures and operations of projects for the purpose of improving environmental quality. WRDA 90 converted the demonstration program to a permanent program.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) supports this cost share program which focuses on the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat resources. The Section 1135 program, with Construction General funding, offers us an opportunity to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and other fish and wildlife restoration proposals.

The Section 1135 Program is managed much like the Continuing Authorities Program. Proposals can be forwarded to the applicable division anytime through our Planning counterparts. Opportunities identified through the NAWMP, Recreational Fisheries Action Plan, aquatic habitat improvement projects, and cooperative effort with Fish and Wildlife Service are, in many cases, good candidates for implementation as Section 1135 projects. The program also provides opportunities for projects that meet the spirit of the Recreational Fisheries Action Plan.

For proposed projects the 1135 program also requires: a series of planning reports; a non-Federal government entity willing to pay 25 percent of the cost of the project; and, the non-Federal partner must be willing to assume all O&M cost as well as all rehabilitation cost. Each project is limited to \$5,000,000 and the program has a \$25,000,000 ceiling per year. Additional information can be found in EC 1105-2-214.

Program 2 - SECTION 206 PROGRAM

Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, P.L. 104-303 provides authority to the Corps of Engineers to carry out an aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection project if the Assistant Secretary of the Army determines that the project will: improve the quality of the environment; is in the public interest; and, is cost effective.

Projects funded using the section 206 authority must be for the restoration of aquatic ecosystem structure and function. This will usually include manipulation of the hydrology in and along bodies of water, including wetlands and riparian areas. No relationship to an existing Corps project is required. Like the 1135 program, 206 proposals can be forwarded to the applicable division anytime through our Planning counterparts. For proposed projects the 206 program also requires: a series of planning reports; a non-Federal government entity willing to pay 35 percent of the cost of the project; and, the non-Federal partner must be willing to assume all O&M cost as well as all rehabilitation cost. Each project is limited to \$5,000,000 and the program has a \$25,000,000 ceiling per year. Additional information can be found in EC 1105-2-214.

F. WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

The Watchable Wildlife program has been in place since December 1990, when the Army Corps of Engineers joined with other Federal land managing agencies and conservation organizations to promote wildlife viewing opportunities on Federal and State lands. There have been a variety of responses to this program within the Corps. Watchable Wildlife is an excellent opportunity to convey land stewardship ethics and biodiversity themes. The program is a natural extension of the new Interpretive Services and Outreach Program. Joe Holmberg, Sacramento District, serves as our point of contact for Watchable Wildlife issues.

G. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS INFORMATION LINK (OMBIL) - NATURAL RESOURCES COMPONENT

The purpose of the OMBIL is to provide the data and information requirements for program and project management at all levels of the O&M community. The OMBIL is intended to increase effectiveness and efficiency in data management by using and linking present data management systems, standardizing terms and data elements, and providing Corps-wide data distribution and access - to the same data. The Natural Resources business function work group is the mechanism by which the natural resources information requirements are being developed. This work group is participating in OMBIL efforts to model system functions (natural resources activities, actions, process and operations), functional relationships, and data information that support the systems integration, cross-business functions and Corps wide.

The Natural Resources workgroup identified data requirements for the Natural Resources Business Program using applicable laws, executive orders, regulations (particularly 1130-2-540), and Corps policy as guides. Development of the Natural Resources data input module followed. Included in the module are data input fields for data generated/ used in day-to-day management of the natural resources on project lands. These data may have been the subject of individual data calls, but have not previously been the subject of a systematic data retrieval system, such as NRMS. Potential users of the Natural Resources business information module were invited to review/comment on the preliminary module during January-February, 1999. Only a few comments were received during this preliminary review period.

Additional testing and revision of the OMBIL - Natural Resources component module is ongoing by members of the subject matter team and selected field representatives. Final deployment of the module is not yet scheduled. For more current updates on OMBIL, visit the web site <http://ombil.usace.army.mil>

H. ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION RESEARCH PROGRAM (EMRRP)

Natural resources management research needs are now addressed under the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Research Program (EMRRP). This research program, which falls under the broader Environmental Quality Research Area, is the consolidation/ realignment of several old research programs including: the old Environmental Impacts Research Program (EIRP); the natural resources components of the old NRRS (Natural Resources Research Program); and components of the Characterization and Restoration of Wetlands Research Program (CRWP) which were extracted and placed within EMRRP... all in an effort to assure R&D efforts address business program needs, eliminate redundancies, and provide more efficient and effective research and results.

Generally, the EMRRP objectives are to: address Corps business program environmental needs at an ecosystem/ watershed level; provide state-of-the-science methods and procedures to predict and analyze environmental impact and opportunities of Corps projects and activities; combine engineering and environmental solutions for ecosystem management and restoration; design effective/ efficient, user-oriented methods to restore and manage natural/ physical resources; and provide tools to assist field activities in meeting environmental mandates and performance measures.

Denise Y. White (CECW-ON), Cheryl Smith (CECW-PD), and Pete Juhle (CECW-EH-W) are the HQ EMRRP Program Monitors. The EMRRP Field Review Group (see Attachment M), which assists the Research Program Monitors in identifying new research needs and evaluating ongoing research efforts, has members which represent three stovepipes of the Corps: Engineering, Operations-Natural Resources Management and Planning.

Your recommendations on the research needed to accomplish Natural Resources Business program functions are valued at any time. You may submit your documented research work unit proposals through your locally established process. Your proposal should document a field, need which can be satisfied only through research within the scope of EMRRP. The research effort and its results must have benefits on at least a regional level...i.e. site

specific research efforts will usually not be considered under this program. All future research conducted under the EMRRP, must have a proponent - a person(s) assigned to closely follow the research through its completion to assist in assuring the research remains targeted for anticipated results and products. Research work units of that are within the Corps priorities, that have national benefit and that support more than one Corps business function have the competitive advantage as proposed new work efforts under the EMRRP. General Investigation account funding supports this research program.

I. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

The Chief of Engineers recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). Copies of the document were provided to Division and District office during last week of January, 1999. This MOU provides a framework for communication and cooperative activities to maintain/ enhance the productivity of wild turkeys and their natural habitat, consistent with other wildlife management goals on Corps lands; to maintain/enhance public wildlife viewing, hunting, and recreation opportunities on Corps lands; and to increase public understanding of the importance of the natural resource conservation necessary to restore and maintain wild turkey populations.

Where opportunities exist to further the goals of this MOU, field offices should seek to work with the appropriate NWTf point(s) of contact. Mr. Robert Abernathy, at the National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Building, Edgefield, South Carolina 29824-1510, phone: (803) 637-3106, will assist you in linking with the appropriate local individuals. Maximum use of the Corps Challenge Partnerships, Contributions, and Volunteers authorities is encouraged to accomplish efforts of mutual interest. Chapters 10-12 of Engineer Regulation 1130-2-500 provide details on the applicability of these authorities.

J. FIRE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Although fire is a natural part of our ecosystem, the Corps does not have a fire management training program in place. This shortfall hinders the Corps ability to meet the professional standards it subscribes to for accomplishing its natural resource stewardship goals and also increases the Corps liability concerning fire management. To address this concern, the Headquarters Operations Division-Natural Resources Branch has determined that a Fire Management Task Force is needed to gather and analyze data to assist in the development of an effective and efficient Corps fire management program. This task force will address fire management policy guidance, project fire management plans, and training and certification requirements. See Attachment H for a list of Fire Management Task Force Members.

K. CIVIL WORKS ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL RESOURCES) PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In response to the Government Performance Results Act of 1993 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started to develop program performance measures in FY 1995. The goal of the results-oriented performance measures is to gauge the achievements of the Civil Works program. Results oriented performance measures help identify if Civil Works products and services are effective and if they are efficiently produced. These measures are to be eventually tied to the budget/allocation process.

The Corps is developing its measures on four "Tier" levels. Tier I consist of senior executives that have

identified the 9 Civil Works business programs (e.g. navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, hydropower, regulatory, environment (includes natural resources) emergency management, support for others, recreation, water supply) to provide direction for measurement development. Tier II consists of headquarters and division business program specialist that are developing programmatic measures for each business program. Tiers III and IV are also developing measures for implementation at the district and project level respectively.

The Civil Works Environment (Natural Resources) business program goals and performance measures, with target implementation years, include:

GOAL: Corps mitigation outputs meet the requirements of authorizing legislation or relevant Corps decision document.

➤. **Measure (FY 96 and continuing):** Percent of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) meeting the requirements in the authorizing legislation or relevant Corps of Engineers decision document.

Mitigation lands: Mitigation lands are those lands on which mitigation measures are taken to compensate for adverse ecological impacts unavoidably caused by Corps projects or activities. For the performance measure, these lands are those authorized by Congress or approved by HQUSACE in a formally documented decision.

Corps administered lands: Corps lands either managed by the Corps, or lands licensed, permitted or leased from the Corps.

Definition: Number of designated Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) meeting mitigation requirements divided by the total number of designated Corps administered mitigation lands (acres).

Demonstrates: Status of Corps efforts to meet mitigation requirements.

Unit of Output: Acres.

Start-up Target: 70% of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) achieving Corps mitigation requirements.

Data Source: Operational Management Plans, Natural Resources Management System - data fields to be determined.

GOAL: Assist in the recovery of Federally listed species.

Measure (revised for FY 98 and continuing) Percent of Corps projects with potential to participate in the recovery of Federally listed species (with final Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)/ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recovery Plans in which the Corps is designated as an action agency) which are accomplishing the ascribed FWS/ NMFS Recovery Plan requirements.

Definition: The total number of *actions/ measures* taken (i.e. *opportunities* seized) as described, or in accordance with, the Final Recovery Plan for a Federally listed species (where Corps is indicated as action agency) divided by the total number of *opportunities* to participate in recovery of Federally listed species with final Recovery plans

(A count of 1 opportunity is a Corps project and its associated endangered species with a final Recovery Plan, which designates the Corps as an action agency. For example: Martins Fork Lake/ Gray Bat is one

opportunity; a second opportunity is Martins Fork Lake/ Indiana Bat - for a project total of 2 opportunities. *Any action(s)/ measure(s) undertaken or completed by the project for a specific species in accordance with the final recovery plan shall be considered in total as one action and given a value of 1.)*

Demonstrates: Corps accomplishment of its responsibilities in FWS/ NMFS Federally listed species Recovery Plans.

Unit of Output: Federally listed species recovery.

Start-up Target: Undertake or accomplish Recovery Plan requirements on 30% of the total Corps projects with potential to participate in those Recovery Plans for Federally listed species.

Data Source: FWS, NMFS, Initial field data call, Natural Resources Management System - data fields to be determined.

**L. FY 97- 99 CIVIL WORKS ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL RESOURCES)
PERFORMANCE MEASURES RESULTS**

Mitigation Measure (see para. C above):

Performance Target (FY 97-99): 70% of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) achieving mitigation requirements.

<u>Performance Achieved:</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>
- Total acres designated as Corps administered mitigation acres:	1,105,637	1,109,063	*724,224
- Mitigation acres meeting requirements:	591,446	618,535	553,191
- Percent of Corps administered mitigation lands (acres) achieving Corps mitigation requirements:	53%	56%	76%

* Decrease in acreage due to reporting errors in prior years.

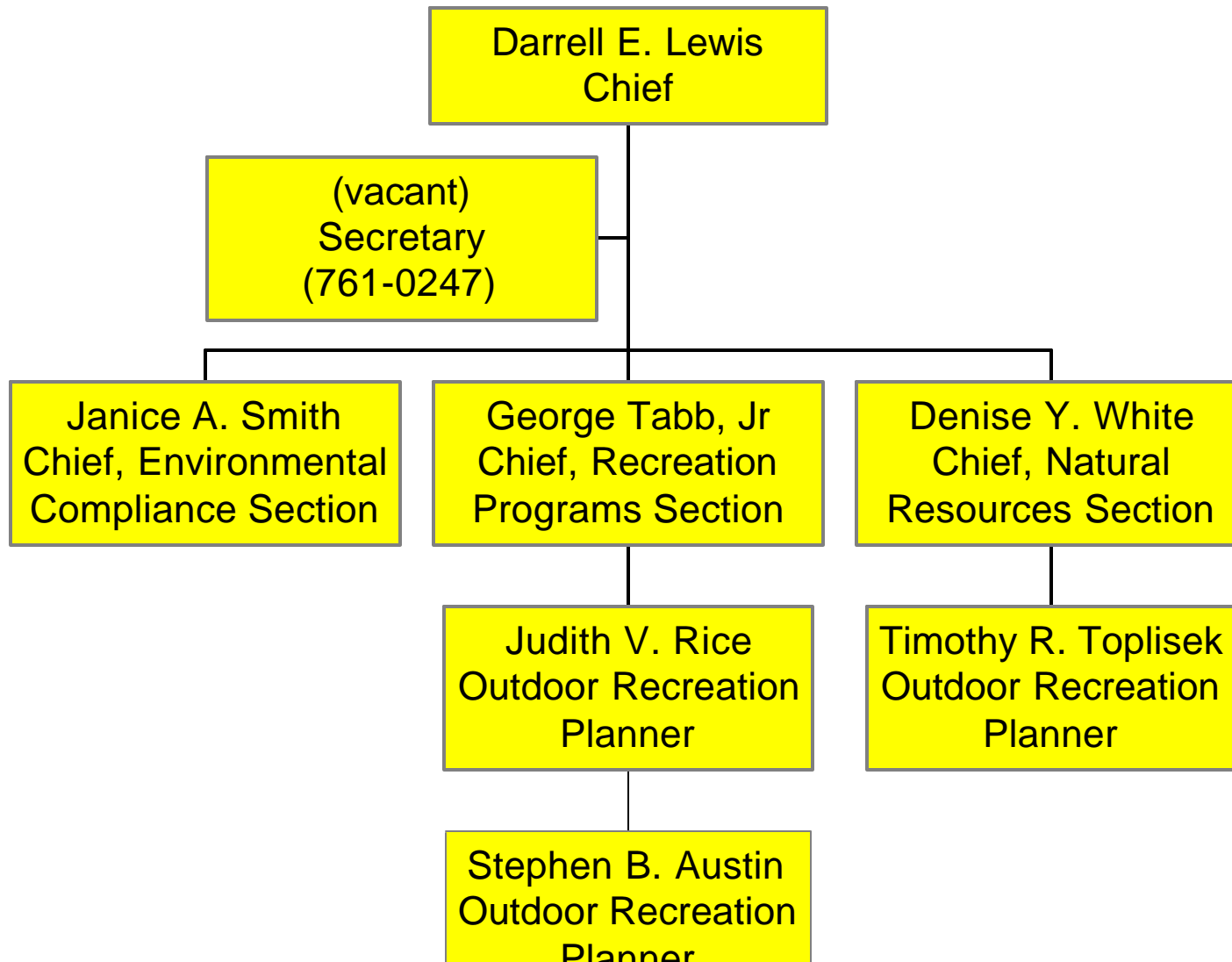
Recovery Measure (see para. C. above):

Performance Target (FY 99): Undertake or accomplish Recovery Plan requirements on 30% of the total Corps projects with the specified opportunity to participate in those Recovery Plans for Federally listed species.

<u>Performance Achieved:</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>
- Number of <i>opportunities</i> seized as described, or in accordance with, final Recovery Plan for a species	--	418	450
- Number of specified <i>opportunities</i> to participate in recovery of Federally listed species with final Recovery plans	--	465	484
- Percent of <i>opportunities</i> seized to assist in the recovery of a Federally listed species	--	90%	93%

ATTACHMENT A

Natural Resources Management Branch



ATTACHMENT B

NRM CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

Member:

Representing:

Dwight Beall
814-658-3405 x 203

Committee Chair

Mike Cummings
412-395-7206

Great Lakes and Ohio River
Division

Roger Hayes
314-331-8635

Mississippi Valley Division

Greg Mollenkopf
410-962-6017

North Atlantic Division

Gary Pelton
802-886-8111

North Atlantic Division

Craig Lykins
206-789-2622

Northwestern Division

Arthur Ruebenson
863-983-8101

South Atlantic Division

Karen Wagner
559-784-0215

South Pacific Division

Marilyn Jones
417-334-4101

Southwestern Division

ATTACHMENT C

NRM UNIFORM PROGRAM COMMITTEE

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

<u>Member:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Jim Runkles 541-374-4556	Committee Chair
Lloyd (Dean) Bonifacio 304-466-1234	Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division
Grafton Anding 601-631-5153	Mississippi Valley Division
Will Rogers 978-318-8305	North Atlantic Division
Lora Vacca 816-532-0174	Northwestern Division (Missouri River Region)
Dawn Wiedmeier 509-751-0241	Northwestern Division (North Pacific Region)
Sara Jernigan 912-768-2516	South Atlantic Division
Jim Sandner 916-557-5275	South Pacific Division
Susan Robinson 817-978-4639	Southwestern Division

ATTACHMENT D

NRM WATER SAFETY COMMITTEE

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

<u>Member:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
----------------	----------------------

Lynda Nutt 509-527-7135	Committee Chair
Harry "Pete" O'Connell 330-547-3081	Great Lakes and Ohio Rivers Division
Kevin Ewbank 815-667-4054	Mississippi Valley Division
Kathy Grim 610-376-6337	North Atlantic Division
Gary Foster 816-426-6816	Northwestern Division (Missouri River Region)
Joyce Dunning 208-476-1279	Northwestern Division (North Pacific Region)
Jeff Pobiegló 706-334-2248	South Atlantic Division
David Dutton 505-465-0307	South Pacific Division
Emmitt Attaway 409-596-1622	Southwestern Division
Ed Evans / Stephen Foshee 615-736-7161	Public Affairs Representative
Madeline Morgan 817-978-2195	Safety Office Representative
Rachel Garren 314-331-8624	Policy Advisor

ATTACHMENT E

NATIONAL SIGN ADVISORY WORK GROUP

Member:

Debra Stokes
504-862-1344

Representing:

Committee Chair
(Sign Software POC)

Joe Holmberg 916-557-5281	Northwestern Division
David Johnson 412-639-9013	Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
Greg Mollenkopf 410-962-6017	North Atlantic Division
Dennis Wallace 417-745-6411	Northwestern Division
Terry Ramsey 804-738-6143	South Atlantic Division
Bill McCauley 214-767-2434	Southwestern Division
Karlissa Krombein 202-761-0027	Office of the Chief Counsel, Headquarters
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RECREATION LEADERSHIP ADVISORY TEAM

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ATTACHMENT G

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

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ATTACHMENT H

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ATTACHMENT I

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ATTACHMENT J

RECREATION FACILITIES STANDARDS TASK FORCE

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ATTACHMENT K

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ATTACHMENT L

OMBIL / RECREATION USER'S GROUP MEMBERSHIP

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ATTACHMENT M

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ATTACHMENT N

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR NETWORK (ECCNet)

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Seattle District

Valerie Krenicky

Savannah District

TBA

Memphis District Representative

TBA

Sacramento District Representative

ATTACHMENT P

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TASK FORCE

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Mississippi Valley Division

Michael Loesch (Co-chairperson)

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